

Regular Board Meeting
Vergennes Township
April 18, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Tim Wittenbach at 7 pm.

Roll Call – Stone, Rasch, Gillett, Wittenbach were present. Hoffman was absent.

Also present was Jeanne Vandersloot, Zoning Administrator.

Approval of the Agenda – Wittenbach added discussion about North Washington Street to the agenda. Stone motioned to accept the agenda with addition, Gillette supported. **Motion carried.**

Acceptance of Minutes – Wittenbach had questions about a couple items in minutes. Stone will review and present for approval at the May meeting.

Treasurer's Report and Bill Approval – The treasurer's report was read by Stone. Gillett made a motion to approve the bills as presented, Rasch supported. **Motion carried.**

Guest – Mark Anderson, Lowell Township Trustee; New Park Project

Anderson gave an update on the park project going in behind Walgreens in Lowell Township. They would like to see the trail system connect through it. They are looking for a monetary commitment from City of Lowell, Lowell Township, and Vergennes Township. The trail from Gee Drive to the Park will be approximately \$300,000. They have secured money from grants, etc... They are asking for \$10,000 from each of the three entities. Lowell City and Lowell Township have each committed \$10,000. Stone would like to support their request. The budget would have to be amended. Gillett motioned to table the request to the May meeting. Wittenbach supports. **Motion carried.**

Tom Postema of Scenic View Landscaping was present to offer support for the Township Park and Trail. He is also offering to keep the trail at Cooper Woodlands cleaned up and useable for the public at no charge to the Township or LARA. He is active in the geo caching community and believes it is a perfect area for it. It brings people into the area where they possibly buy gas and lunch, etc...

Unfinished Business

Update on Hall Addition Proposals

The Board is currently considering plans from two firms. Some clarification of costs is needed due to the ways the bids were submitted. Scott Jernberg was present representing Triangle Construction. He explained that with their firm, they would design and build the addition with a guaranteed maximum price. Having an architect in house makes it easy to make changes as you go along. The Board will take it under consideration.

New Business

1. Duplex request in RA district – Eastbrook Builders

Jeff Costello was present representing Eastbrook Builders. They are requesting a duplex in RA district. The owners bought the lot and asked them to build a two family home. He has had several discussions with Mark Fleet, Building Official and Brian Wilson at Cascade Township to ensure house was to code. He did not talk with zoning official. House plans were tentatively approved based on building code.

Wittenbach stated there is no provision in our ordinance allowing a two family home in RA district. Accessory dwellings are allowed and becoming very popular. After further discussion, it was not allowed. If he can make the house qualify as a single family unit, he can go forward with project.

2. Request for Sign Placement SEUP – Roger Kropf

Barb and Aaron Roth were present to discuss sign. They are planning to put it on Thuston's property at the SW corner of the intersection of 4-mile and Lincoln Lake. They have an agreement with Thuston's to do so. It will be out of the road right-of-way. Stone made a motion to set the matter for a public hearing at the May 16, 2016 regular Board meeting. Gillett supports. **Motion carried.**

3. Resignation of Planning Commissioner Mike Mastrovito.

Mike Mastrovito resigned the Planning Commission. A new commissioner needs to be appointed by Tim Wittenbach. The next regular Planning Commission meeting is May 2. There is one applicant so far. There was one other suggestion. The appointment will be tabled until the May 16 regular Board meeting.

4. Designation of Township Attorney, Auditor, Engineer, Planner

Stone made a motion to designate the following:

Attorney – Foster, Swift

Auditor – Hungerford, Nichols

Engineer and Planner – Williams and Works

Gillett supports. **Motion carried.**

5. Approval of Depository Institutions

Stone makes a motion to keep the Depositories as Huntington Bank, Mercantile Bank, and Kent County Money Max. Gillett supports. **Motion carried.**

6. Resolution to Commit Fund Balance to Fire Authority Equipment Purchase

Wittenbach motions to set aside \$50,000 per year for Fire Equipment purchases. Rasch supports. **Motion carried.**

7. North Washington Street discussion

Lowell City milled the road last fall. It was not their road to mill. County is not happy. It will cost \$30,000 to re-pave. The City has agreed to pay 1/3 of the cost; the County will cover 1/3 leaving the Township with 1/3 of the cost. After some discussion among the Board, Stone makes a motion to approve spending \$10,000 to repave the road, Wittenbach supports. **Motion carried.**

Other Business

The Lowell Community Fund is looking for a replacement for Jeff Bunn, his three year term is up. Wittenbach, Stone, and Mork were suggested as replacements last month. Jeff Bunn recommended Dave Emmett. Dave agreed. It was approved by both Wittenbach and Stone.

First round of interviews for new Fire Chief are to be held at Vergennes Township Hall beginning at 6pm on Tuesday April 19.

Citizen Comments –

Tom Postema liked Triangle Construction for addition due to continuity of work flow. The plus is that they can't go back to designer to blame something on, and vice versa. He would have no concerns with other firm if they wanted to work the same way.

Gillett suggested seeing if Dixon/Makuski can work something out like Triangle, just to compare apples to apples. He recommended a timeline of agreeing to architect by June meeting, submit plans for construction bids by the fall, and begin building in spring of next year.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28pm.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2016.

Mari Stone, Vergennes Township Clerk